

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed September 21, 2005, has been carefully considered. In response thereto, the present application has been amended in a manner which is believed to place it into consideration for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding Office Action and issuance of a Notice of Allowance are respectfully solicited.

At the outset, the Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2, 3, 5, 8-17, 19, 20, 22, 25, and 27-34 and the indication that claim 26 would be allowable if rewritten.

The Applicants respectfully traverse the finding that the Declaration is defective. With regard to the notary's signature, there is no requirement that a Declaration (under 35 U.S.C. § 25, as opposed to an oath) be notarized at all. With regard to the signatures of Tao Li and Mitsunori Ogihara, the Declaration bearing their signatures has already been filed. However, for the convenience of the Office, an additional copy of that Declaration is submitted herewith.

The Applicants respectfully submit that the present Amendment overcomes the rejection of claim 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Finally, the Applicants respectfully submit that the present Amendment renders moot the rejection of claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 18, 21, 23 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) by canceling those claims and by rewriting in independent form those dependent claims which have been indicated as reciting patentable subject matter.

For the reasons set forth above, the Applicants respectfully submit that the application as amended is in condition for allowance. Notice of such allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place the application into better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any shortage of fees, or credit any overpayment thereof, to BLANK ROME LLP, Deposit Account No. 23-2185 (000687-00328). In the event that a petition for an extension of time is required to render this Amendment timely, and in the event that a separate petition either does not accompany this Amendment or is insufficient to render this Amendment timely, the Applicant hereby petitions under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for an extension of time for as many months as are required to render this Amendment timely. Any fee due is authorized above.

Respectfully submitted,

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